

Birds Do It! RECYCLE!



If you collect paper, cloth, string or paper clips, your friends might call you a pack rat. But if you're a bird, you're just building the coolest house in the neighborhood!

Picky, Picky

Scientists have no idea exactly why birds choose certain objects to build their nests. But scientists know that the main reason birds build nests is to keep their babies safe, warm and healthy.

Chicks grow faster and are healthier when they are warm. They also learn to fly and leave the nest sooner than birds without warm homes.

What A Yarn

Yarn is big on an oriole's shopping list when nest building. Scientists are still trying to figure out why so many birds choose white yarn over other colors for nest building.

Scientists think that the white stuff reminds birds of cotton fluff they find in the wild.

Do It Naturally

Even though birds can help us recycle some of our junk by using it to build nests, they also need to use lots of natural materials.

Twigs, long grass, moss, dried bark, spider's silk and mud are

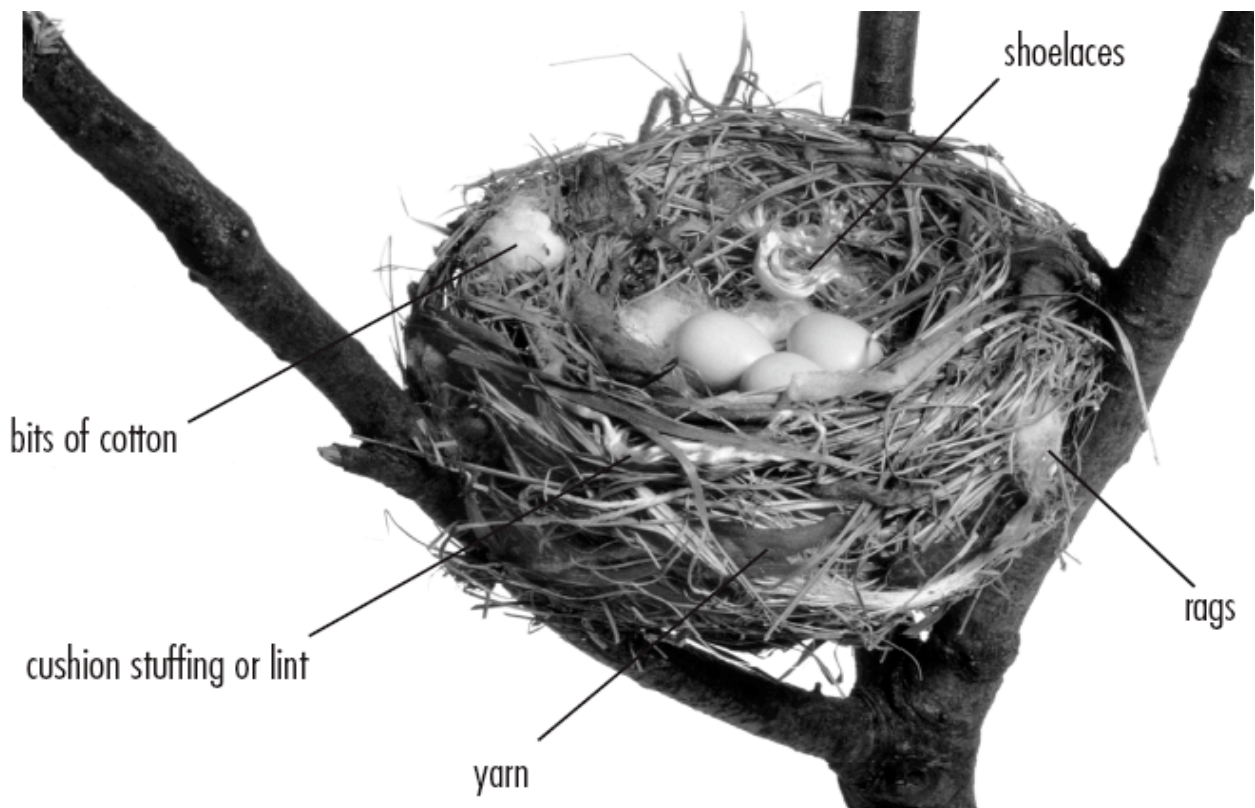
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some of the natural ingredients that are good for nests, too.

You can make a collection box of stuff to leave for birds so they can help themselves. Hang a small plastic box with holes (like the ones berries come in) on a tree branch. Stuff the box loosely with nest building goodies. Hang

the box on a tree and watch birds climb on board to pick through the junk to find treasures.

Cat Alert: Don't let the birds turn into a tasty treat. Keep your bird station away from places where cats hang out.



For the Birds!

Stop! Don't throw all that garbage out! Give some to the birds. Look and see how your old junk can help decorate and warm a bird's new home.

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Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions: Read the passage “Birds Do It! Recycle!”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Use the information in the article and the photograph of the bird’s nest. Which material would **MOST LIKELY** be an oriole’s first choice when building its nest?
 - A. lint
 - B. rags
 - C. shoelaces
 - D. white yarn

2. A bird that collects paper, cloth, string, and paper clips is probably
 - A. a pack rat.
 - B. building a cool house.
 - C. not sure which items to use.
 - D. gathering natural materials.

3. Use the information in the article and the photograph of the bird’s nest. Which nest-building material would **MOST LIKELY** have come from a collection box?
 - A. grass
 - B. twigs
 - C. shoelaces
 - D. dried bark

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4. The author uses the picture of the nest to show
- A. the items in a bird nest.
 - B. where birds build nests.
 - C. how to build a bird nest.
 - D. what bird eggs look like.
5. What is the MOST LIKELY purpose of birds building their nests in trees?
- A. to keep their chicks safe
 - B. to give the chicks room to fly
 - C. to help the chicks grow faster
 - D. to make their chicks leave the nest sooner

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Answer Key – Birds Do It! Recycle!

LA.A.2.2.8: The student identifies meanings through the process of selecting and/or organizing information from a single text that contains multiple representations of information. The complexity of the presentation will be appropriate to third grade. This process may involve application, analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation appropriate to third grade.

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